

HB1456 Hospitals and Tissue Banks – Autologous and Directed Blood Donations –

Requirements

February 28, 2025

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen:

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

For the Record, I am Collin M. Rolfes, Intern for Delegate Ric Metzgar from Legislative District 6 in Baltimore County, who is the sponsor of HB1456 Autologous and Directed Blood Donations Bill, which adds new requirements for blood donations and transfusions.

Let me set the scene for this bill with some fun facts about blood storage. When you donate your blood, it is separated into three parts. These are the platelets, the plasma, and the rest of the blood. The platelets, the cells in your blood that cause scabbing and clotting, are allowed to sit on a shelf for five days before they are no longer viable. The plasma is frozen for a shelf life for about a year and the rest is in a cooler for a shelf life of about 42 days. What is not told here are the issues from letting blood sit in storage. It takes on average about 3 weeks for red blood cells to start losing oxygen and if the blood is without oxygen for too long, the cells can rupture.

Plasma if not properly frozen will cause complications or death from ice crystals forming and platelets degrade quickly.

With this bill, Delegate Metzgar proposes a shelf life of three days and for major procedures, you draw your own blood three days prior for use in the operation. This will make sure all components of the blood stay fresh and oxygenated.

For these reasons I have discussed, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1456. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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